Restart of production at R.A.P.P.

†1021. SHRILALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production has stopped in the first unit of Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (R.A.P.P), Rawatbhata since October, 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the production would restart; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by Government to compensate the loss suffered by Rajasthan on account of permanent closure of the first unit of R.A.P.P?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The unit has been shut down for detailed assessment of its health and techno-economic evaluation for its refurbishment.

(c) It is premature at this stage to fix any time frame for the commencement of operation of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit 1 as the detailed evaluation is still underway.

(d) The State of Rajasthan has an allocation from the Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS) in addition to share from Rajasthan Atomic Power Station units 2 to 4.

FDI proposals

1022. SHRI SURENDRALATH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of FDI proposals are under consideration of Government in the coal mines sector;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals. State-wise;

(c) the status of those proposals; and

(d) the number of proposals presently running with FDI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANARAO): (a) No such proposals for FDI approval are pending for consideration of FIPB at present. tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(d) Four FDI approvals amounting to Rs. 78.81 crores were given during the period from April, 2003 to April, 2006.

Valuable waste lying unsold with CIL

1023. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Ltd. has been holding for years dumps of 18 mt. of waste, consisting coal rejects and middlings, valued at some of Rs. 1000 crores, though it commands a premium in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that while the private sector miners sell such of their waste material at about Rs. 600 per tonne, CIL is unable to get any customer for want of proper marketing strategy and the required infrastructure; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken to dispose of these huge stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) 18 million tonnes of coal waste *i.e.* coal rejects and not middlings have accumulated at various washeries in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) due to inadequate market for these products.

(c) and (d) Some Captive coal mine owners had been permitted by Government to sell their surplus coal rejects. These companies sold such coal rejects/middlings to various consumers. As per reports, the base price was in the range of Rs. 168 to Rs. 665 per tonne.

Coal India Limited has, as part of marketing strategy, offered sale of such rejects under e-marketing. Howerver, there has been hardly any response. Attempts made to sell such rejects through open tenders has not brought encouraging results. Further, Coal India Limited has taken the following steps to dispose off the stocks of coal rejects:—

(i) wherever possible, such rejects are being utilized to fill up the excavated areas in Open Cast Mines and also for the purpose of making roads.

(ii) Regular offers are being made for disposal of such stock through sale under e-marketing wherein any buyer could bid and procure rejects to the extent desired by him.